

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 IO-13

RSR-01 /104 W

----- 026114

R 221530 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4775

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL BELFAST

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PBOR, EI

SUBJ: COSGRAVE URGES ISLAND- WIDE RECONCILIATION

BEGIN SUMMARY: ON JUNE 21, PM COSGRAVE MADE SHORT, FORTHCOMING SPEECH AIMED AT SETTING CONCILIATORY TONE ON EVE OF JUNE 28 NI ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS. FULL TEXT TRANSMITTED SEPTEL. END SUMMARY.

1. HE WELCOMED DECISION OF NI PEOPLE TO PURSUE "ELECTORAL ACTION RATHER THAN VIOLENCE," SPEAKING OF NI "MAJORITY FOR PEACE." (HIS PLAY ON WORDS IN EFFECT REJECTED THE USUAUL USE OF "MAJORITY" AND "MINORITY" TO DESCRIBE PROTESTANT AND CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES.) COSGRAVE URGED ALL POSSIBLE HLEP TO THE NON- VIOLENT MAJORITY. HE WANTED NO MORE OF THE "DEADLY MIXTURE OF RUTHLESSNESS AND INCOMPETENCE EXPRESSED AGAIN IN BOMBINGS OF COLERAINE" JUNE 12. (COLERAINE BOMBINGS CAUSED ANOTHER WAVE OF REVULSION HERE AND ARE ASSUMED TO BE WORK OF CATHOLIC EXTREMISTS.)(

2. NI, CONTINUED COSGRAVE, HAS BEEN A "CHRONICALLY UNSTABLE SOCIETY" BECAUSE "TWO APPARENTLY INCOMPATIBLE
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ASPIRATIONS EXIST WITHIN ITS POPULATION. TO SATISFY EITHER ASPIRATION DEFINITELY NOW WOULD BE FINALLY TO FRUSTRATE THE OTHER." WHAT WAS NEEDED INSTEAD WAS A PROCESS OF RECONCILIATION BASED ON " GROWING RECOGNITION OF COMMON INTEREST." IT WOULD HAVE TO TAKE PLACE THROUGHOUT ENTIRE ISLAND. " NO CONSIDERATIONS OF PRIDE OR INSTINCT OF SELF- RIGHTOUSNESS MUST BE ALLOWED TO STAND IN THE WAY...." REPUBLIC NEED NOT FORGET ITS ASPIRATION TO UNITY BY CONSENT, BUT ALL ON ISLAND SHOULD " CEASE TRYING TO IMPOSE ON EACH OTHER OUR PARTICULAR CONCEPTS OF THE KIND OF IRELAND THAT WILL EVENTUALLY EMERGE...."

3. FOR ITS PART, GOI WAS PREPARED " TO WORK WITH ANY SYSTEM OF JOINT GOVT IN WHICH VALID REPRESENTATIVES OF BOTH COMMUNITIES ARE PREPARED TO WORK TOGETHER IN THE INTERESTS OF NI. WE MUST BE PREPARED TO RECOGNIZE THE RIGHT OF THE TWO COMMUNITIES IN NI TO SET ASIDE THEIR DIFFERENT VIEWS OF THE EVENTUAL SHAPE OF IRISH POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS...." GOI IS WILLING TO MEET WITH NI POLITICAL GROUPS EITHER PRIOR TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW EXECUTIVE OR AFTER IT HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED, " AND, OF COURSE, WITH THE BRITISH GOVT ALSO." GOI WILL ENTER TALKS WITHOUT PRE- CONDITIONS " IN ORDER TO SEE HOW BEST TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEMS OF THE ISLAND OF IRELAND." (THIS USAGE OF " ISLAND OF IRELAND" IS A NEW ONE IN OFFICIAL PRONOUNCEMENTS, AND IT AVOIDS EMPHASIS ON POLITICAL BOUNDARIES.)

4. GOI WILL MAKE SPECIFIC PROPOSALS FOR JOINT ORGANIZATION OF ACTIVITIES OF MUTUAL INTEREST: " FOR EXAMPLE, EXTERNAL AND INTERNAL TRANSPORT, ENERGY, TOURISM, INDUSTRIAL AND EXPORT DEVELOPMENT, REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS. "

5. " WHAT IS NEEDED ABOVE ALL," SAID COSGRAVE, " IS A WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT AND WORK FORWARD FROM EXISTING REALITIES, RATHER THAN A CONCERN WITH ABSTRACT LEGALISTIC OR CONSTITUTIONAL DEFINITIONS."

6. PRESS REACTION IN REPUBLIC WAS STRONGLY FAVORABLE
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TO COSGRAVE SPEECH. BRITISH " FINANCIAL TIMES" HEADED ITS ARTICLE " COSGRAVE ACCEPTS ULSTER STATUS QUO" AND SAID THAT HE HAD " IN EFFECT COMMITTED HIS GOVT TO ACCEPTING AND RECOGNIZING BOTH THE PRESENT CONSTITUTIONAL STATUS OF NI AND THE POWER- SHARING EXECUTIVE" HOPED FOR BY DUBLIN AND LONDON.

7 COMMENT: COSGRAVE SPEECH SHOULD BE READ TOGETHER
WITH FONOFF EXPLANATORY COMMENT REPORTED IN OUR 791.
COSGRAVE HAS GONE ABOUT AS FAR AS HE CAN WITHOUT NEW
CONSTITUTION, WHICH COULD PROBABLY BE SOLD TO PUBLIC ONLY
AS PART OF THE PACKAGE EMERGING FROM TRIPARTITE TALKS.
IN EFFECT, HE HAS EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO REDUCE
UNIFICATION CLAIMS TO AN ASPIRATION RATHER THAN A
RIGHTS. HE HAS EXPRESSED TOTAL FLEXIBILITY ON PROCEDURE
AND URGED FOR SETTING ASIDE BOTH HISTORY AND LONG-
TERM ASPIRATIONS IN FAVOR OF PRACTICAL STEPS TOWARD
PEACEFUL RECONCILIATION. MOORE

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